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Communications solicited on all Medical and Scientific subjects, and also Reports of Cases occurring in practice.
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The LANCET has the Largest Circulation of any Medical Journal in Canada.

ANIMAL EXTRACTS.

It is to be regretted that the introduction of animal extracts has been attended with so much quackery. Doubtless marked and beneficial results have been obtained from the administration of Thyroid Extract in some cases of myxœdema.

It must be remembered, however, that the thyroid is a secreting gland, which has been shown experimentally to have a direct effect in the production of this disease, and one can easily understand, that, if through a deficiency in quantity or quality of its secretion, a pathological condition arises, the administration of an extract of the gland, by supplying the deficit, might bring about a return to the normal condition of affairs. This may warrant its use in diseases evidently arising from affections of the thyroid gland, but its employment in lupus, internal tuberculosis, cancer, etc., as we have seen it recommended, is, in the light of our present knowledge of pathology and bacteriology, most unscientific, and can only have the effect of bringing the remedy into disrepute. The action of nervine, cerebrine, cardine and numerous other "*ines*" are not supported by such scientific evidence, and it is to these we refer in speaking of quackery. As well might one attempt to restore an amputated leg by the use of *Crurine*, *Genuine*, and *Pedine*, as expect cerebrine to form a new corpus striatum, in place of one that has been ploughed up by the blood from a ruptured middle cerebral artery. A very unpleasant and disgrace-

ful feature of this subject, is the way in which these extracts are being advertised, not only in medical journals, but in the public press.

The pendulum of medical thought is seldom at rest, and as with almost every new remedy, so will it probably be with thyroid extract; received with open arms as a panacea for almost all ills; rejected as quickly and fervently as accepted, when found unqualified for the position to which it was assigned; and eventually, after serving a long apprenticeship, become installed again in general confidence, but with very much limited functions.

THE MICROSCOPE IN MEDICINE.

Microscopy is not only an interesting study, but is rapidly becoming, in fact has become, a very necessary part of the modern physician's means of diagnosis and consequent guide to treatment. While a few years ago much valuable time was lost waiting for physical signs to develop, in order to settle the diagnosis, in the present day, with our staining reagents and microscopes, we are able to demonstrate the existence of tubercular disease, in many cases, long before the pleximeter and stethoscope afford anything but negative signs.

The results of treatment in the later stages of phthisis have not materially altered from those of former years, but in those cases recognized before any extensive damage to lung tissue or interference with the general health has taken place, large numbers of recoveries have been reported, and much unnecessary expense and suffering avoided. If only for the sake of these cases, which exist in such large numbers, every practitioner should be possessed of a microscope and understand the preparation and examination of sections.

But these are not the only cases in which a microscope is of value. Diseases of the blood may be readily recognized, the differential diagnoses accurately made, and the effect of treatment carefully watched.

In diseases of the genito-urinary organs, and frequently in affections of the skin, the microscope is indispensable to both the physician and surgeon. It should be impressed upon the student at the beginning of his course, that a microscope is absolutely necessary for the proper pursuit of his studies, both before and after graduation. Auscul-